

TIP OF ALL RIGHT

NOBBY'S
"Straightforward Satisfaction"


Hot car prize for fact lovers

PUT your pub knowledge in the fast lane by sending us a brilliant fact and we'll give you the chance to grab the keys to a sleek Honda Civic Type R.

It's your chance to show off what a trivia champion you really are and gear up with a £17k car to prove it.

But as well as sending in a fact you can get entered for the prize by solving the Nobby's daily Number Crunchers we've been printing all week.

Send us the correct five digit code and you'll automatically go into our prize pot.

Each Number Cruncher has a multiple choice question - simply pick the right answer to give you a figure.

Collect every day's digit, put them in a row of five figures (Mon-Fri), send them to us and we'll enter you into the cracking competition all thanks to Nobby's Crisps.

Here's a repeat of the week's Number Cruncher questions from our Nobby's Knows column - there's the final Friday question too.

Remember, all you have to do is pick the right sequence of numbers and send them off to us in order.

For a chance to win call us now on **0905 072 3631** with the winning code. You can also text or email us with your answer - competition@daily_star.co.uk with **NOBBY'S CAR DRAW** as the subject title. Entries must be received by Midnight, Sunday 20th November.

If you can't solve the sequence don't fret - we have another Honda Type R to be won next week and you can get into the draw by sending your fact or trivia for next week's Pick and Mix theme.

Simply text **TRIVIA** to 88833 or email us - competition@dailystar.co.uk with **NEWS FOR NOBBY'S** as the subject header. You can also enter your trivia by following Nobby's link on www.dailysnack.com.

You can also send us your trivia by following Nobby's link on www.dailysnack.com and watch out for Nobby's Knows every day as we serve you up a magical mix of trivia.



For your chance to win this fabulous car call

0905 072 3631

with the winning code

THE BIG NUMBER CRUNCHER

MONDAY'S QUESTION

Which one of these numbers should you dial three times in an emergency?

A. 1 B. 2 C. 9

TUESDAY'S QUESTION

How many rings are there in the Olympics symbol?

A. 3 B. 5 C. 9

WEDNESDAY'S QUESTION

How many sides does one dice have?

A. 1 B. 3 C. 6

THURSDAY'S QUESTION

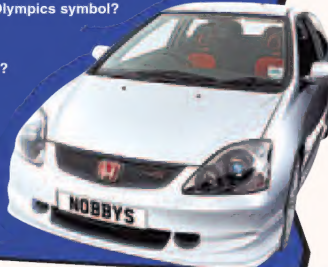
How many deadly sins are there supposed to be?

A. 1 B. 4 C. 7

FINAL FRIDAY QUESTION

What is the number on the black ball in a game of pool?

A. 3 B. 5 C. 8



Terms & Conditions: 1. The prize is 1 (one) Honda Civic 2.0 VTEC Type R car; features include standard specification for the above mentioned model, the winner will have a choice of non-metallic colours, subject to availability at the time of booking, 6 months car tax and delivery of the vehicle to the Honda dealer nearest to the winner's home address. 2. The prize cannot be modified and there is no cash alternative in part or in whole. 3. The promotion is open to all residents of the UK aged 18 or over who hold a valid full driving licence, except for employees of the promoter, their families, suppliers, agents or associates. 4. The winner will be chosen at random from the entries received. All winners will be notified by post within 28 days. 5. Usual rules apply. 6. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 7. Winners may be required to participate in publicity. 8. Your prize is valid for 12 months from the date of winning, after which time it is considered expired. Premium rate phone line. Calls cost 75p per minute from a BT landline (Ave call length 90 secs). Texts should be no longer than 160 characters. Texts cost £1.50 plus your usual operator rate. Winners will be selected from all entries received by midnight 20/11/05. Normal Daily Star rules apply.

NOBBY'S CRISPS:
Available in your
favourite pub grub
flavours



It's the business

'There is no school for chief executives except for the school of experience' - Charles Farkas

Movers & groovers

RED faces at investment bank **UBS**, which has suffered the full wrath of the Financial Services Authority. The bank's wealth management arm noted a suspicious transaction and reported it. Investigations revealed the deal - a buy on behalf of client - had been incorrectly reported as a client sell. There was worse to come. Further inquiries showed every equity transaction made by UBS WM with outside brokers had been incorrectly reported since October 1999. A £100,000 fine followed.

CHINA'S biggest orange grower, **Asian Citrus**, has high hopes for the Chinese New Year as people rush to buy celebratory oranges. The reason? Orange is China's lucky colour.

ANYONE who is contemplating deals in Iraq or Afghanistan might be interested in security firm **ArmourGroup's** latest move.

It will offer tactical firearms courses after buying **Phoenix Close Protection**, a bodyguard training company run by ex-SAS officers, for £4.25m.

BT says it is actively promoting voice over internet product **BT Communicator** - which allows customers free calls to other VOIP users.

But there still seem to be problems with the way it is being communicated. **France Telecom's** Wanadoo says it has signed up 80,000 to its service in the UK after just seven months. BT had just 50,000 after 20 months.

- THE DEALER



RACING UNCERTAINTY: Getoutwhenyoucan wins the paddypower.com Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase at Cheltenham earlier this month - piling the pressure on the bookies

HOT GOSSIP

TESTING company **Intertek Group** eased 0.5p to 745.5p despite rumours of stakebuilding ahead of a possible takeover by an overseas company. Shares have risen more than 10% over the past month despite a couple of broker downgrades, with gossip suggesting an approach by Swiss group **SGS** could be on the cards.

VIRGIN AIM 4 SHOPS

VIRGIN Mobile is considering a bid for John Caudwell's chain of 350 **Phones4U** shops.

It is part of Virgin's plan to expand onto the high street with stand-alone stores next year. The group - 72% owned by Sir Richard Branson - has only 100 concessions inside Branson's Virgin Megastore music shops and another 19 inside **WH Smith**.

Rivals

Most of Virgin's UK rivals have at least 300 stand-alone outlets.

Chief executive Tom Alexander said: "You will inevitably see our own shops next year."

"At the right price it would be interesting." Caudwell has put his empire, including the Phones4U chain, up for sale with a price tag of at least £1 billion.

FAIR SHARES

LEADING shares rebounded as record gold prices and rising crude prices boosted blue chip miners and oil companies. Oil and gas explorer **BG Group** was also boosted by rumours that **Shell** was mulling a takeover approach. The **FTSE 100** index climbed 30 points to 5460.

Bashing for the bookies

A STRING of hot favourites romping home has spelled bad news for bookies.

Now three of the biggest have warned that their year-end profits are likely to limp in below forecasts.

Hilton-owned Ladbrokes, William Hill and Irish bookie Paddy Power said a black October, when more than 60% of horse-racing favourites won,

■ by **BILL MARTIN**

cappped a dismal four months in which punters emerged on top. Ladbrokes and Paddy Power especially highlighted the negative impact of Kieran Fallon riding three

CANING: Bookie Paddy Power



winners at the blue-chip French event, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

Winnings

Paddy Power shares tumbled from €13.31 (£9.09) to €10.38 (£7.09), William Hill by 21p to 511p and Hilton by 3p to 336p.

They lost a combined £230m and Ladbrokes said it has been very

badly hit by high-rolling gamblers staking £10,000 by phone.

Prices boosted blue chip miners and oil companies. Oil and gas explorer **BG**

Group was also boosted by rumours that **Shell** was mulling a takeover approach. The **FTSE 100** index climbed 30 points to 5460.

Hilton is also in talks over a possible deal to sell its hotels arm to American Hilton for £3.6bn.

news@dailystar.co.uk

FTSE100 SHARE INDEX

Up 30.00 points (0.55%) at 5460.00

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low
3i Grp.	825	+13	826	825	1470	Centrica	214	+264	217	1818	Land Secs.	1584	+1	1596
A.B. Food.	827	+16	853	725	1082	Compass Group	210	+6	264	176	Legal&Gen.	110	-	119
Alliance & Linc.	780	+7	947	814	1233	Daily Mail	645	-3	764	617	Lib-Int	982	+5	1025
Alliance Unicom	884	+5	875	882	6027	Diageo	849	+5	862	721	Lloyds Tsb Grp.	457	-1	509
AMVESCO	388	+1	432	299	1124	DSE Int.	147	+1	167	138	Man Grp.	1760	+78	1778
Anglo	1811	+24	1829	1130	4949	Ent. Inns	856	+22	872	612	Marke & Sp.	440	+2	445
Antofagasta	1555	+44	1559	1052	3438	Exel	1220	+1	1255	715	Mitro. Rock	821	+4	835
Astrazeneca	2593	+13	2767	1861	1585	Friends Prov.	189d	-1	191	146	National Grid	538	+4	561
Aviva	691	+8	695	573	3389	Gallagher Grp.	895d	-1	907	706	Next	1335	+1	1681
BAA	628d	-3	639	571	389	GLS	877	+27	889	821	Nil. Rock	821	+4	835
BAE Sys.	342	+2	344	224	1010	GlaxoSmithKline	1508d	+5	1544	1101	O2	209	+209	111
Barclays	602	+6	614	519	1094	GUS	877	+27	889	821	Old Mutual	146	+2	146
BT Grp.	554	+20	555	344	2724	Hammerhead	983	-5	992	768	Party Gaming	96	-	176
BTI Bill	859	+21	816	564	1423	Hanson	585	-5	609	405	Reed Elsevier	529	-29	554
BDO Grp.	1157	+29	1173	896	1008	HBOS	385	-5	912	732	Prudential	512	+4	542
Bovis Group	804	+2	892	553	1009	Hilti Group	336d	-3	356	257	Rocket Bencher	1818	-2	1834
BP	337d	+6	353	300	1011	HSBC Hldgs.	938	+8	940	825	RSCAM	512	+2	520
Bp	769	+28	771	438	1094	Imp. Chem.	319	-	322	229	Rentokil Int'l	158	-1	173
Br Airways	314	+3	320	215	1258	Imp. Tobacco Grp.	1690	-	1704	1330	Rio Tinto	2380	+70	2381
Br AmecTob	1305	+4	1329	855	1003	Intercen. Hotel	798	+6	801	612	Royal Bank Scot.	1671	-3	1833
Br Land	116	+16	1014	780	1128	Imp. Power	240	-2	252	150	Royal Sun All.	108	+2	108
BSkyB	491d	-2	595	486	1382	ITV	118	+2	130	101	Telecom	389	+5	428
BT Group	288	+2	295	194	1012	Johnson, Matthe	1243	+3	1244	915	Tesco	356	-2	382
Cable & Wire	117	+1	164	107	1015	Kalida Grp.	736	-1	776	526	Unilever	563d	+2	602
Cadbury-Sch.	570	+5	594	459	1016	Kingfisher	214	-1	216	201	Unilever	563d	+2	602
Cain Energy	1896	+33	2018	1042	3643	Int. Hotel	798	+6	801	612	Unilever	563d	+2	602
Capita Group	389	+2	394	346	1063	Imp. Power	240	-2	252	150	Unilever	563d	+2	602
Carnival	3147d	-17	3241	2637	2568	Int. Hotel	798	+6	801	612	Unilever	563d	+2	602

For real-time share prices and our share dealing service, Dial 0905 062 0973 and listen to the instructions. Calls are charged at 60p per minute from a BT landline. For more details call our helpline on 0871 434 1519.

A nappy new year for store

MOTHERCARE is gearing up for growth after its overseas stores helped push up profits.

Chief executive Ben Gordon said yesterday the three-year recovery programme he outlined in May 2003 had put Mothercare in a stronger position.

Its overseas operations have already expanded from 166 three years ago to 250 across 33 countries.

Gordon plans to open at least another 121 international stores over the next two-and-a-half years. The

retailer said sales outside the UK jumped 17% to £34.5 million in the first half offsetting a 1% like-for-like sales decline at Mothercare's 232 UK stores.

The majority of the group's UK high street stores have been refurbished. Gordon yesterday announced he was turning his attention to the 74 out-of-town outlets.

Gordon also plans to grow Mothercare's internet business, available in every store, by increasing the ranges.

9-2 FOR THE SUPER BOOKIE BASHER

JULIUS CAESAR AT 9-2 WENT IN AT MARKET RASEN TO KEEP UP THE BASHER'S FINE FORM. SO FOLLOW THE TEAM IN THE KNOW TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Calls cost £1 per min all times from BT Landline
0905-235-2821

FREE TIPS TODAY!

Text **TIPS** to **88600**

Exclusive from our Tracksides Spies

LEE KEYS

PROFESSIONAL BETTING ADVICE
My best bets in one quick call - latest *Scot's Grey* WON 3/1

0906 664 0673

Fallers, flaggers and losers which horses to 'LAY' today

0906 664 2823

Calls cost £1.50 per min from a BT and the Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

RACINGVIEW with ALEX GORRIE

Two wins from three bets last Friday!

BOLD BISHOP WON 8/1

We have another

MASSIVE COUP

on a horse that has been laid out for today.

This is our biggest bet of the week!

Best bet given within 60 seconds

Daily Hotline

0906 664 0670

Calls cost £1.50 per min from a BT and the Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

simon delamere

SELECTIVE QUALITY ADVICE

Wednesday callers were given one bet only... but with full confidence.

The result - *Precious Bone* WON 5/1. Call today for more great info.

0906 664 09 97

Message available from 10.30am daily

Calls cost £1.50 per min from a BT and the Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

THE SWEENEY

ANOTHER HUGE FRIDAY!

Last Friday got the weekend off to a great start with big winners:

Bold Bishop W8/1, Devondale W5/2

Since then regular callers have again benefited from

my unique ratings and information with:

All In The Stars W8/1,

Precious Bane W1/1, Lord Anner W5/4

And you can expect more quality advice again today...

LUMP ON MY CHASERS THIS SEASON. NOBODY DOES IT LIKE ME!

Three chase meetings today and my info is superb...

Don't you doubt my ability, just stake and play!

0906 664 09 92

Calls cost £1.50 per min from a BT and the Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

INSIDE WHISPERS

W 25-1, W 14-1, W 12-1.
8 WINDY HUNT THIS WEEK. NO MOVE W 11-2

LAST FRIDAY'S NAP BOLTED UP 5-1

IMPRTANT GAMBLE FRI

CONTACT 100% CONFIDENT

"A DEAD CERT - DON'T MISS IT"

09061 233 244

Call 01235 233 244. No. 09061 233 244. No. 09061 233 244. No. 09061 233 244.

Mike James

"The best information is no longer a secret..."

A great week for callers. Winners include:

Scot's Grey W3/1, Nyrche W5/4

Crozier W6/1, Our Vic W3/2

and I've got more quality advice to pass on today.

0906 664 0991

Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

Call 01235 233 244. No. 09061 233 244. No. 09061 233 244. No. 09061 233 244.

FBI RACELINE

Callers cash in again!

Why don't you join them?

Recent winners include:

Alph W6/1

Killaghy Castle W7/2

Capybara E/W 11/2

Call today for the professional service

giving quality daily

best bet & E/W advice.

0906 664 0996

Calls cost £1.50 per min from a BT and the Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

Mann's maths steals the show

NATHOS caused an upset when he turned over hot favourite Not Left Yet in the Portemps Handicap Hurdle at Market Rasen yesterday.

The Martin Pipe-trained Not Left Yet was sent off a heavily-backed 4-7 chance on the strength of an easy win at Cheltenham last Friday but he was found out under a 7lb penalty after having every chance.

The market leader moved into contention going strongly on the outside of the eventual winner in

MANN: Big winner

KELSO ON 09055 141 603 (613)

TRACKFACTS The hurdle track is a tight left-hand oval circuit of one mile 300yds with five hurdles to jump, the chase course with nine fences is one mile 600yds. There is a long run-in of 400yds.

12.20 NOVICES' HURDLE (D) (8 flights) 2m1/4 (16 runners) £5,621

1 20-1 LANTARQUE (19/10) S Murphy 5 11 4 K Mercer 3 84

2 10-1 BALLYHURRY (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 B McElwain 3 28

3 10-1 BORIS THE SPIDER (12/1) M Hammond 4 10 12 F Kenney 39

4 10-1 CARPE MOMENTUM (10/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

5 10-1 DARK CHARACTER (7/10) S Gold 5 10 12 A Dobbin 3 96

6 20-1 FAIR SHAKE (12/1) L Long 6 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

7 10-1 FIRST LOOK (12/1) P J Kenney 3 96

8 10-1 OLD BARKS (12/1) W Storey 4 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

9 10-1 SOUTH BRONX (27/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

10 10-1 ROMANOV RAMBLER (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

11 10-1 THE CONNOR FELLA (14/1) M Hammond 4 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

12 10-1 THE DUKES SPEECH (22/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

13 10-1 VIKING STAR (13/1) A Brown 4 10 12 L Vickers 3 96

14 10-1 WILLIES WAY (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

15 10-1 GOLDEN REMEDY (12/1) P J Kenney 3 96

Star Betting: 13-8 Lantique, 7-2 First Look, 4 The Duke's Speech, 7 Dark Character, 16 Boris The Spider, 20 others.

2004: Tomasso, 6-10-12, (J Crowley, 7-2) K G Revely, 11 ran.

STARFORM: LANTARQUE Dgr: First Look

12.50 NOVICES' HURDLE (D) (17 fences) 2m6/4 (8 runners) £6,324

1 50-1 EVER PRESENT (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 B Harding 3 96

2 10-1 THE BASSIAIS (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 A Dobbin 3 96

3 10-1 IRIS'S PRINCE (19/1) J A Cook 6 11 5 J Dwyer 3 96

4 10-1 PEBBLE BAY (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

5 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

6 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

7 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

8 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

9 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

10 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

11 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

12 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

13 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

14 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

15 10-1 NORTHERN MINISTER (20/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

Star Betting: 9-4 Ever Present, 3 Pebble Bay, 7-2 Le Bassiais, 8-2 South Bronx, 14 Int's Prince, Moorhousie, 25 others.

2004: Gingerbread House, 6-11-12, (W Marston, 13-8) R Phillips, 6 ran.

STARFORM: PEBBLE BAY Danger: Le Bassiais

1.20 DIXON HEANEY HURDLE (D) (8 flights) 2m1/4 (11 runners) £5,402

1 0-50-1 ST PIRHAN (37/10) S Gold 5 10 12 L McElwain 3 96

2 10-1 GOOD ONE FAR (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

3 10-1 THOUTMOSSIE (13/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

4 10-1 INTO THE SHADOWS (10/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

5 10-1 SHORE (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

6 10-1 SHORE (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

7 10-1 SHORE (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

8 10-1 SHORE (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

9 10-1 SHORE (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

10 10-1 SHORE (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

They made their moves at the same time but it was Charlie Mann's 10-1 shot who found the better finishing kick under Noel Fehilly to record a decisive one-and-three-quarter-length victory over Not Left Yet.

The winning jockey was pleasantly surprised by the outcome.

He said: "He's done it well but I didn't expect to beat the

favourite. My horse travelled well and jumped well. He's a very versatile horse who settles well and he could go back in trip as well."

Connections are hoping to aim Nathos at the final of the series at the Cheltenham Festival in March.

Tom Siddall enjoyed a welcome success when he got Layz Lena home in front in the Buy Your Tickets

Online marketplaces. Selling Handicap Hurdle.

Call cost £1.50 per min from a BT and the Goldcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JS

TONY LEWIS

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12.50 PEBBLE BAY (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 D C Costello 3 1

12.50 INTO THE SHADOWS (10/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

12.50 MISS MATTIE ROSS (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

12.50 RIVER MIST (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

12.50 PESSIMISTIC DICK (19/1) S Gold 5 10 12 P J Kenney 3 96

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by PETER THICKETT

the home straight in the two-mile-six-furlong feature.

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Gold Cup second Take The Stand,

Irish star Beef Or Salmon, dual Haydock scorer Keen Leader and National runner-up Royal Auclair are also engaged along with Hennessy victory Celestial Gold from the all-conquering Martin Pipe yard.

BATTLE FEVER: War Of Attrition (left) holds off Rathgar Beau at Clonmel

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BATTLE FEVER: War Of Attrition (left) holds off Rathgar Beau at Clonmel

YESTERDAY'S WINNERS AND PRICES		
HEREFORD	MARKET RASEN	WINCANTON

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Lambourn.
 Take: £3.90; up £3.40, £2.50. exacta: £24.00, £2.00. QP: £9.97.
 3.50 (2m 1f-1). **LEGAL GLORY**
 (A Pm J Jones 1f-2), **JIMMY BLEDY**
 (Mr. M Rimell 10-1), **3. Northern**
Endersby (W. Kennell 10-1). **Four**
For A Launch 3-1, 1/21, 1/41, 1/41.
 B Powell, Winchester.
 Take: £3.40, up £4.90, £2.50, £3.00.
 exacta: £124.90, £3.120.79.
QUADPOT: £581.70
PLACEPOT: £7,502.70

exacta: £91.70, £3. £72.83. tricrest:
 £398.46.
 2.20 (2m 1f, 1. **MR PENTON**
 (A Tinker 1f-3; 2), **2. Norner's East**
 (A Pm McCoy 13-8); **3. No Guarantees**
 (C Llewellyn 6-1), 1/41, 41. 16 ran. C
 Egerton, Chelmsford.
 Take: £2.50; up £1.10, £1.40, £1.60.
 exacta: £7.40, £3. £3.90.
QUADPOT: £150.50
PLACEPOT: £18.40
JACKPOT: not won, £9,655.00 carried
 over to Windsor.
 4.00 (2m 6f), 1. **DENMAN**
 (Christian Williams 2-1); **2. Karanja**
 (A Thornton 8-11; 3), **3. Surface To**
Air (R Young 100-1), 151, 2/21, 12
 ran. P. Nichols, Shepton Mallet.

Take: £3.00; up £1.20, £1.30, £16.80.
 exacta: £5.00, £3. £32.86.
QUADPOT: £11.50
PLACEPOT: £32.90

HEREFORD

12.50 (2m 3f) 1. ASHGREEN (Mr W Biddick 1-4), 2. Armageddon (Mr J. S. Walker 3-4 fav), 3. Astor (Mrs E Walker 3-4 fav), 20l, 1/2l, 7/8 m. Miss V Williams, Hereford.
Exacto: £37.60, £14.30, £4.00, exacto: £30.70, exact: £31.93.

1.20 (2m 1f):
SUDAMORESTRICT
T Scudamore 11-9 fav, Earl of Sutherland (P Brennan 3-1), 3. Twist N Turn (S Crane 11-4), 1l, 20l, 12 m. Mr J. R. Hand.
Exacto: £3.80, pl: £1.30, £1.50, £3.30, exact: £3.50, exact: £4.93, NR: Little Rock.

1.50 (2m): 1. MISS SHAKIRA (T Scudamore 9-4 fav), 2. Call Me Jack (D. J. O'Brien 9-4), 3. Astor (Mrs E Walker 3-4 fav), 3/4l, 7/8 m. P Brennan 100-30, bl 3/2l, 7/8 m. N Twiston-Davies, Cheltenham.
Exacto: £3.00, pl: £1.50, £3.30, exacto: £12.10, exact: £11.93.

2.20 (2m 3f) 1. LITTLE BRAVE (I Stephens 12-1), 2. Abraham Smith (J. H. Jones 11-4), Red Fox (T J Phelan 25-1), Down's Polly 5-4 fav, 6l, 1l, 12 m. C Roberts, Newbury.

2.50 (2m 3f) 1. £11.00, pl: £4.20, £6.70, £9.00, exacto: £180.30, exact: £159.39, tricat: £4,663.57, NR: Ludlow.

3.00 (2m 3f) 1. RAE DES FLAMMINGS (H Oliver 8-1), 2. Hawridge King (P Brennan 8-1), 3. Tuke (A. J. Cook 11-4), 12 m. P. Contender 7-4 fav, /2l, 1/4l, 16 m. Miss S Wilson, Stoke-upon-Trent.

3.30 (2m 3f) 1. £22.40, pl: £2.40, £3.00, £6.30, exacto: £58.10, exact: £173.74.

3.20 (2m 3f) 1. DIRECT FLIGHT (W Stephens 11-2), 2. The Woodpecker (I Stephens 11-4), 3. Woodbridge (M Warren 4-1), Thais 11-8 fav, 6l, 1/2l, 5 m. N Chance, Lambourne.

Exacto: £3.90, pl: £3.40, £2.50, exacto: £3.60, exact: £30.97.

3.50 (2m 3f) 1. LEGAL GLOMY (Mr S P Jones 12-1), 2. Jimmy Deputy (Mr M Rimell 10-1), 3. Northern Spirit (Mrs A Kennedy 10-1), 12 m. For A Launch 3-1 fav, 2l, 1/2l, 14 m. B Powell, Winchester.

Exacto: £3.40, pl: £4.90, £2.50, £3.30, exacto: £124.90, exact: £120.79.

QUADROPO: £581.70
PLACEPO: £7,502.70

MARKET RAISE

12.40 (2m 1f) 1. PARISIENNE GALE (Miss Caroline Hurley 5-6 fav), 2. The Windmill (Mrs J. S. Walker 3-4 fav), 3. Nobel (Miss R Davidson 11-2), 2/2l, 3l, 9 m. R Ford, Torporley.

Exacto: £21.00, pl: £3.30, £3.30, exacto: £7.60, exact: £5.73, tricat: £15.45.

1.30 (2m 6f) 1. LAZY LEENA (T Siddall 3-1), 2. Samson des Galas (G Lee 2-1 fav), 3. Avanti Tiger (N Fehly 15-2), 3/2l, 12 m. Mrs L Siddall, Worcester.

Total: £5.10, pl: £1.60, £1.30, £2.30, exacto: £15.00, exact: £15.47, exact: £79.10.

1.40 (2m 6f) 1. JULIUS CAESAR (G Lee 9-2), 2. Classic Capes (P Kirtley 9-2), 3. Marthe (Mrs J. Bradburn 10-1), 3/4l, 7/8 m. M Moon 3-1 fav, 19 m, 28l, 9 m. J Howard Johnson, Crook.

Total: £10.00, pl: £1.60, £1.30, £1.70, exacto: £62.70, exact: £54.38, NR: Stoneyford Ben.

1.50 (2m 6f) 1. NATHOS (N Fehly 10-1), 2. Not Let Yet (T J Murphy 4-7 fav), 3. Ball o' Malt (A Ross 4-0), 3/4l, 15 m. C Grant, Worcester.

Total: £12.80, pl: £2.60, £1.10, £14.40, exacto: £126.70, trifecta: £454.30, exact: £121.20.

2.00 (2m 6f) 1. HARRYBOY (C Lee 9-2), 2. Heidi III (G Lee 8-1), 3. Villair (N Fehly 4-1), 2/2l, 2l, 12 m. Mrs J. Bragg, Worcester.

Total: £37.10, pl: £1.50, £2.20, £1.90, exacto: £29.20, exact: £25.44, exact: £93.30.

2.10 (2m 4f) 1. FIERY PEACE (Mr T Greenall 9-1), 2. Deep Water (A. J. Cook 11-4), 3. The Duke (R Harding 5-1), Kitaki 100-30 fav, 3l, 15l, 8 m. C Grant, Billingham.

Exacto: £2.40, pl: £2.40, £2.10, £1.80, exacto: £21.70, exact: £72.33, tricat: £398.46.

2.40 (2m 3f) 1. MR POINTMENT (A P McCoy 11-8), 2. No Guarantes (C Lilwellen 6-1), 1/4l, 4l, 16 m. C Egan, Worcester.

Total: £2.50, pl: £1.10, £1.10, £1.60, exacto: £7.40, exact: £3.99.

QUADROPO: £8.60
PLACEPO: £18.40

JACKPOT: not won, £95,650 carried over to Windsor.

WINCATON

1.30 (2m 6f) 1. LORD NELLS-SOMER (R Johnson 5-2), 2. Big Rob (P McMenara 15-8 fav), 3. Maximimus (Christian Williams 4-0), 5l, 2l, 13 m. J Russell, Sharncliffe.

Total: £3.60, pl: £1.90, £1.70, £1.80, exacto: £9.60, exact: £7.13, tricat: £146.30, NR: Quarrymont.

2.00 (2m 6f) 1. MOTCOMBE (A Thornton 18-1), 2. Supreme Serenade (R Johnson 8-13 fav), 3. De Blanc (S Brown 11-4), 1/2l, 6l, 11 m. R Abern, Blanford.

Total: £12.20, pl: £2.60, £1.10, £4.30, exacto: £32.00, exact: £30.16.

2.30 (2m 6f) 1. ALBARINO (J Kingston 13-2), 2. Nugate (D Boland 6-4 fav), 3. Josear (A Glassburn 11-2), 1/2l, 12 m. M Scudamore, Horwethy.

Total: £8.20, pl: £1.30, £1.40, £1.50, exacto: £12.10, exact: £7.35, tricat: £58.92.

3.00 (3m 4f) 1. INCA TRAIL (Miss C Tizzard 11-1), 2. Koquelicot (R Johnson 9-2), 3. The Playboys (P Tizzard 9-2), Le Jaguar 3-1 fav, 2l, 8 m. P Nichols, Shepton Mallet.

Total: £15.10, pl: £3.10, £1.90, £2.00, exacto: £66.60, exact: £56.93, tricat: £247.43.

3.30 (2m 6f) 1. ROOF OF SPIRIT (D Jackson 15-2), 2. Netina (R Thornton 4-1), 3. Rutner (J Crowley 100-30). Nick The Hedge 13-8 fav, 1/4l, /2l, 5 m. D Keane, Shaftesbury.

Total: £8.40, pl: £2.70, £1.80, exacto: £32.70, exact: £32.86.

4.00 (2m 6f) 1. DENMAN (C Thornton 6-1), 2. Kanaria (A Thornton 8-11 fav), 3. Surface To Air (R Young 100-1), 15l, 2/2l, 12 m. P Nichols, Shepton Mallet.

Total: £3.00, pl: £1.20, £1.30, £16.80, exacto: £5.60, exact: £32.86.

QUADROPO: £11.40
PLACEPO: £32.90

COUNTDOWN TO GREAT BRITAIN v AUSTRALIA

GARETH'S A RAY OF HOPE



by MARTIN RICHARDS

GARETH RAYNOR has been handed a dream Great Britain debut on his home patch to vindicate his decision to cut short a switch to rugby union.

Lions coach Brian Noble has faith in the tough and pacy Hull winger to handle the occasion – and the Aussies – in tomorrow's must-win game against the Tri-Nations holders at a bulging KC Stadium.

Raynor, who has an attacking style like Jason Robinson's, found out Union wasn't for him after just one season with Leicester and bought out the final two years of his contract to return to Hull.

The 27-year-old gets his big chance ahead of Wigan's Mark Calderwood after injuries to Paul Deacon and Paul Wellens forced Noble into changing the side that routed New Zealand last Saturday to revive their hopes of making the final.

Proud

Raynor will come in for Leon Pryce who is expected to switch to full-back for Wellens with another Hull favourite Richard Horne tipped to come in for Deacon at scrum-half.

With prop Jamie Thackray certain to retain his place on the bench, it will be a proud night for the Hull club with three men in a Britain line-up who have to beat the world champions by at least three points to reach the final at Eland Road.

Noble said: "Gareth has looked very sharp and has worked hard. His footwork is good – he's a quick and athletic player."

John Kear, Raynor's club coach, said: "The Aussies won't have seen anything like him, not since Jason Robinson tormented them a few years ago."

Vice-captain Brian Carney, a former Hull player who was a big hit with the fans when the black and whites played at the Boulevard, has recovered from a hamstring strain picked up in his two-try show against the Kiwis.

Stand-off Iestyn Harris goes into the game with a new spring in his step after his wife Becky gave birth to a 9lb boy on Wednesday.

Dropped

Noble will only finalise his side an hour before kick-off with Kevin Sinfield and Lee Gilmour, both dropped for the Kiwi game, vying for the fourth substitutes spot.

Australia coach Wayne Bennett has dropped experienced prop Steve Price to give Trent Waterhouse a place on the bench so he can make use of the 6ft 4ins Penrith Panthers forward's club understanding with scrum-half Craig Gower.

GREAT BRITAIN (probable): Pryce; Carney; Gleeson, Senior, Raynor; Harris, Horne; Fielden; Cunningham, Morley; Peacock (capt), Johnson, Ellis. Subs: Sinfield or Gilmour, Higham, Walker, Thackray.

AUSTRALIA (probable): Minichiello; King, Gasnier, Cooper, Tate; Barrett, Gower; Cironieva, Budarus (capt), Ryles, O'Donnell, Fitzgibbon, Kennedy. Subs: Prince or Wing, Waterhouse, O'Malley, Mason.

GOTCHA: Gareth Raynor is tackled by Paul Sculthorpe (left) and Keiron Cunningham

INSIDE RUGBY LEAGUE with Martin Richards

Bett on a Denis return

DENIS BETTS' departure from Wigan this week came as no great surprise.

His body language on the day Ian Millward was appointed in May to revive the Warriors' fortunes said it all.

Betts thought Wigan should have stuck with him as acting head coach because the club had been cruelly hit by injuries plus the loss of skipper Andy Farrell to rugby union.

He believed he could have got them through a lean spell.

Cards

But the home defeat to Huddersfield after a poor run of results was the last straw for chairman Maurice Lindsay, who turned to ex-Saints boss Millward.

Betts was never comfortable as Millward's assistant and his exit was always on the cards after refusing to coach the club's Under-21s team.

Ironically, Betts' win-loss ratio was equal to Millward's after the Warriors' brief flirtation with relegation at the season's end.

But Lindsay always feared that Betts lacked the experience to take the top job

on a permanent basis and imported Andrew Farrar to help out before the results condemned him.

Betts is a proud, ambitious man who believes he is Super League head coach material.

Whether his rumoured move to rugby union in the New Year as a defensive coach will be the right way to further those ambitions is open to debate.

He is spending Christmas with former Wigan and Great Britain team-mate Andy Goodway to recharge his batteries.

RELEGATED Widnes, who lost £170,556 last year, are the target of a takeover bid from Chester City's millionaire chairman Stephen Vaughan.

He says he has contacted Vikings directors and talks could take place soon. "We need to get behind a table and discuss things but the interest is there," said Vaughan.

FORMER New Zealand coach Bob Bailey didn't take too kindly to the Kiwis' 38-12 Tri-Nations mauling by the Lions at Huddersfield.

Bailey described the loss as "pathetic" and says management should never have allowed some players to take a holiday in Italy in the week of the game.

BRIAN SMITH could be heading back to England for a third spell after Parramatta told the former Hull and Bradford coach they would not be renewing his contract next year.

BRADFORD'S Great Britain prop Stuart Fielden is the hot favourite to win the Golden Boot award on Monday.

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YOUR TUTORIAL QUESTION

There are seven players in total in the game. You are in the small blind and everyone folds apart from the big blind. You've got Ten and Jack of Spades in the hole. And you raise three times the big blind. The big blind calls right away and the flop produces Ace of Spades, Eight of Spades, and Nine of Hearts. Your power bet is nine times the big blind and your opponent goes all-in. You would need to put in twelve times the big blind to make the call. Is the call the right decision on your part?

TUTORIAL ANSWER

You have an inside-out straight draw and are four cards into a Spade flush. You have fifteen outs and a one in three chance of landing a premium hand. With the pot totalling thirty six times the big blind it'll cost you twelve times the big blind to call. The cash odds are good. In our opinion you should definitely make the call.

TIP OF THE DAY

Let's call this a pre-tilt warning. What usually happens is that after a long run of rather sad hole cards, a situation arises which is seen as an opportunity not to be missed, largely because you've been deprived of action for so long. The scene usually unwinds something like this: Your hole cards are another miserable twosome, let's say Ten of Hearts and Two of Spades. You're in a late position and watch as three players fold in front of you. None of the remaining players bother to raise. Under these happy circumstances you decide to take a risk convinced that the flop will deliver for you against a background of apparent limpers. You hit the call button and the flop demonstrates your error of judgement by providing no support whatever for your pathetic Ten and Two. You have enough discipline left to recognise your mistake and fold. It was a wasted bet and a lesson learned. What would have been worse is that you might have paired your Two on the flop, assumed the fates were with you and ploughed onto the turn or even the river, hoping to convert your low pair into trips.

THE WAY OF THE LOSER

If the Samurai had a phrase for the kind of action described above it would be "The Way of the Loser". Keep your discipline, even following a long run of negative hole cards. Good poker is as much about not losing unnecessarily as it is about winning big.

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Hatton will end up in a Maus trap

CONFIDENT Colombian Carlos Maussa is convinced he can end Ricky Hatton's unbeaten record when the pair meet with two world titles at stake.

WBA light-welterweight champion Maussa tackles IBF king Hatton, who has won all of his 39 contests, in what promises to be a cracking unification showdown at the Sheffield Arena a week tomorrow.

Maussa claimed the WBA crown in June with a shock seventh-round stoppage win over Guyana-born Vivian Harris – but the 33-year-old says that he will not be a one-fight wonder.

He said: "That win over Harris fulfilled a dream of mine. I always wanted to be a world champion and now I have the chance of unifying the titles."

Pride

"It's a chance I do not aim to give up lightly. I know how good Hatton is but I am in the shape of my life and ready to take away his IBF title."

"I also know Hatton will have the English crowd behind him."

"But I have a big armoury of punches and I will not be overawed by either Hatton or the crowd."

"A win for me will be a source of a great deal of pride and satisfaction."

"I know I will win. This will be a great step in my life as a professional"

by KEVIN FRANCIS

boxer. I have never felt so good and so confident before a fight.

"It's because of my confidence and my excellent preparation that I firmly believe I can defeat Hatton."

Hatton, 27, is fully aware of the problems that can be posed by the sometimes unorthodox Maussa.

"I have seen films of him and I am expecting a handful," said Hatton.

"He's very difficult and very tenacious. It's hard to know what he is going to do."

"The thing is, I'm not sure he knows what he is going to do!"

"But I'm looking forward to it. It's going to be a fun fight to watch for the fans."

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COUNTDOWN TO ENGLAND v ALL BLACKS



DOC BEAT CLOCK TO KEEP MY RECORD

BANG ON CUE: Mark Cueto celebrates after coming back on to score a try against the Australians (below)

Says MARK CUETO

MARK CUETO hailed England's doctor as the main reason for him keeping his 100 per cent scoring record.

Cueto bagged his ninth try in as many games for England late on against Australia last Saturday.

And the flying winger admits he would never have been able to do it if it wasn't for the swift stitching of match-day doctor Nigel Henderson.

Nasty

The 25-year-old suffered a nasty cut above his left eye no more than 30 seconds into the Aussie clash and was rushed off the field for treatment.

But Cueto didn't realise there is a 15-

EXCLUSIVE by DEAN WILSON

minute time limit on blood bin injuries, after which you cannot go back on.

So with the clock ticking, Henderson had to work fast to get England's try-machine back in action.

Cueto said: "Getting clobbered in the first minute of a test match, it's not usually part of my plan to get involved early doors!"

"Luckily, I knew it would just be a case of getting the stitches in and getting back out there to carry on with the game."

"But I didn't know that there is a 15-minute time limit on the blood bin, so about 10 minutes into the stitches, the doctor asked how long we had left."

"I wanted to know why he was concerned and when he told me, I told him to hurry up and get a move on because there was no way I wanted to miss out for a little bit."

Havoc

"But I did think it was a bit touch and go so I ran out of the room and on to the sidelines as quick as I could just to make sure."

Cueto has rapidly become England rugby's version of Michael Owen, popping up in the right place at the right time to score.

And he knows he will have to take another step up against the All Blacks tomorrow, especially with Sitiveni Sivivatu ready to cause havoc on his wing.

He added: "It was nice to get on the scoresheet again because that is why I play rugby – it's my job to score tries."

"It is going to be tough against the likes of Sivivatu but I can't stand off and let them run at me."

"They know how to punish you. Also, I need to make them work hard to stop me."



Kiwis get cup nod

NEW Zealand were last night given the green light to host the 2011 World Cup.

They beat Japan – who were thought to have a good chance – after seeing off the challenge of South Africa in the first round of voting.

SPORTWORD

ACROSS

- Danny, Manchester City and England defender (5)
- Road, Champion Hurdle winner in 1989 (5)
- See ... Then, Champion Hurdle winner on three occasions (3)
- The, nickname of East Stirling FC (5)
- Valentino, top Italian motorcyclist (5)
- David, former Scotland prop forward and captain (4)
11. and 4 down, Ipswich Town, Derby County and Hearts manager (6,6)
- Richard, Yorkshire and England spinner (6)
- Marcus, men's 200 metres Commonwealth champion in 1990 (4)
- Nurse, twice Champion Hurdle winner (5)
20. Matt, Welsh 400 metres hurdler (5)
- Danny, Great Britain rugby league stand-off (3)
22. John, Derby County and Trinidad forward (5)
- Craig, Clyde, PNE and Scotland manager (5)

CLUES DOWN

- Men's 400 metres hurdles Olympic champion in 1976 and 1984 (6)
- Roy, former Scotland and British Lions scrum-half (7)
- Matthew, British table tennis player (4)
- See 11 across.
- Top South African golfer (3)
- Drechsler, women's long jump Olympic champion on two occasions (5)
- de Triano, winner of the 2000 Guinness in 1992 (7)
- Scottish Division Two football club (6)
- Irwin, Manchester United, Wolves and Eire defender (5)
- Norman, Grand National winning trainer in 2001 (5)
- Elliott, mens 1500 metres Olympic champion in 1980 (4)
- Armytage, female former jockey (3)



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TEXT DSSPORT TO 61616

- ☐ Owen and Parker YOU SHOULD AV SIGNED FOR WIGAN. we dont need big names we got best manager in world top by xmas chimbonda best player in prem. CORMICK
- ☐ Wigan - its just fluke where you are at the moment. mark pne
- ☐ To jg. Glad shearer no cup turned us down. We got far better player in king cantona and won the lot how about you? Dollyred
- ☐ to w ham muppet. bolton and boro r there on merit u wouldn't fill uptown park for a euro game cos u wont get there. big daz bwfc
- ☐ I see 3 point lane just got nathan tyson. see you when we go up and you go down cuz your nothing without burley and rasiak. spinksy the don
- ☐ good 2 c eng at w.cup, so we can all ave a good laugh again, overpaid muppets. tosh is better than huges. mick im welsh
- ☐ Shaun dingo, wigan cant fault ya just hope injuries dont spoil the hard work later in season. IAN BORO
- ☐ To whom bob. Are arsenal playing euro games at uptown park now. whu wouldnt get in toto cup. JK, LITTLE LEVER
- ☐ mcr phil rowlands do u actually support a team or just hate man utd? you do sound like a bitter blue though. RED KARL
- ☐ 2 phil rowlands wot game did u watch u texan i hate man utd but even i could c chelsea were pap. great goal 4 fletcher. chelsea nowhere Preston kopite
- ☐ Warnock your lucks gotta run out soon Dec 3. Des, Up The Owls
- ☐ RE DEAN NFCC MUNIT CANT BUY HISTORY U MUPPET. HOO WAS DE 1ST TEAM 2 PAY A MILL 4 A PLAYER? MIND WOT LEAGUE U IN NOW? ROZ CFC
- ☐ To dean da forest prat. Money cant buy history my a**e. Both forest + arsenal bought ur unbeaten records. Forest bought 1st £million player! Chelsea kev.
- ☐ if crouch can get a game 4 england beattle shud become captain. he has scored twice as many goals than the beapole. jayefc
- ☐ 2 pony of thfc - just lik rest of ur firm at 3pt lane, u talk s***. Uv no rite 2 chirp up. 1 word - CHAMPIONS. 16 yrs and still countin! CHLSKI BLUEBOY
- ☐ Did u hear Tony Pulis got caught doing 100 mph on the M5? When the police pulled him over he said: 'I dont care i'll do anything for three points!' mark@cfc
- ☐ Crouch as got good touch for big man. Just as well cos hes c**p in the air. Park End lad
- ☐ Well done to utd! First we stop Arsenal's unbeaten streak and now we stop Chelsea! Hope this is a sign of things to come! Lisa M
- ☐ I see 3 point lane Tony T.H.F.C back texting again. School homework must be up to date! DAVE CFC
- ☐ So greedy engnd plyrs av negotiated wrld cup bonus. Thy aldy bein pd by clubs. Es generated shud b put bak in2 game n play in 4 cntry shd b n onor. john i york.
- ☐ NOT ONLY DOES RIO FERDINAND LOOK LIKE A YARDIE VERSION OF DONALD DUCK WITH THE IQ OF HOMER SIMPSON BUT HES SHOWIN UP THE COUNTRY BY FORGETTING 2 WEAR A POPPY ON REMEMBRANCE DAY! 'MILLY&SIPS' MCFC
- ☐ Newcastle 2 beat chelsea. United 2 beat charlton. Win our game in hand 4 points behind them. MUFC 4EVA. RUUD
- ☐ To 'up the blades.' you poor deluded little boy The mighty LEEDS are the biggies of yorkshire. Spider, Donny Whites
- ☐ SMB. Y dont u Mackems tell th tats u wach. dont matta much they kiss n cuddle b4 kik off, still s****!
- ☐ Mac the Mag
- ☐ Old trafford has one of thd best atmospheres wen everyone can b bothered lyk Chelsea game. rocket, muFCum
- ☐ re:PNE paul: Nice 1! Jesus cud never ave been born in Burnley, cos they aint got swive men or a virgin. BRFC REG
- ☐ muFC/cum Geordie remember the song. 'david may superstar got more medals than SHEARAR. utd's resrve defendr won treble SHEARenny got 1 lge medal. Toddy

COUNTDOWN TO THE SECOND TEST

VAUGHAN IN BIG GAMBLE



ENGLAND DOUBTS: Trescothick and Vaughan together yesterday

Skipper will answer SOS

ENGLAND are sweating on two key batsmen ahead of Sunday's crucial second Test against Pakistan.

Skipper Michael Vaughan is almost certain to "risk" his injured knee to help England's bid to level the three-match series. But his stand-in Marcus Trescothick has not yet decided whether to return to this country after his father-in-law suffered serious head injuries following a fall from a ladder.

He is currently in intensive care in a Bristol hospital which specialises in head injuries. Vaughan admitted he thought his tour was over a week ago following a recurrence of chronic cartilage trouble in his right knee.

Instead, after "day and night" treatment from England physio Kirk Russell, he now seems likely to start on Sunday in Faisalabad.

Vaughan said: "It has been a surprise. I thought the tour was over for me last week but it is amazing how these things can turn around."

Gamble

He tested his injury on the sidelines in Multan during the first Test, gradually putting it under a little more pressure each day with light runs and throw-downs in the nets.

The improvement has been sufficient already for him and England to contemplate taking a calculated gamble that he will not make the injury worse by rushing back this weekend.

Vaughan says no final decision is likely to be taken until tomorrow. He added: "We have talked over the best options and, because the rehab has gone so well, it seems the best thing is to try to get fit to play on Sunday."

"I guess there is a slight risk if I do play. But I'm willing to take that risk. "We've worked hard on it the last few days, and if I do play I'll have to work

from RODNEY WHITE in Faisalabad

hard throughout the Test on making sure I look after it.

"I don't see it being a massive risk and the position we are in now in the series I think it is one that might be worth taking. But it's gone well the last two or three days in particular and I'll train with the team as normal tomorrow."

"I'll do everything the team do, probably a little bit more. And I'm quite hopeful that I should be available for Sunday."

"Kirk has worked almost day and night to try to get it right. I'm glad I could be playing again on Sunday because I didn't like watching."

●PAKISTAN bowlers Shabbir Ahmed and Shoaib Malik could miss the rest of the series against England after being reported for suspected illegal bowling actions in the First Test.

The ICC will decide before Sunday if the pair can continue to bowl.

Shabbir has been reported four times since making his debut in 1998. Malik was reported in October after a one-dayer against Sri Lanka but his action was cleared by the ICC after modifications.

HOW ABOUT THAT

by PETER LAING

DAVID HOWELL capped a memorable week by signing for a 59 yesterday.

But the 30-year-old Swindon golfer didn't achieve the sub-60 feat on his own - he had Luke Donald as his partner in the opening fourballs at the World Cup in Portugal.

That put holders England into the first round lead but only by a stroke from India and Australia.

Donald won the title with Paul Casey a

year ago and, as the leading Englishman in the world rankings two months ago, thought hard about whether to rekindle that partnership.

But he opted for Howell because he was next on the rankings - and the decision is already paying off, with each on course to become almost £400,000 richer on Sunday.

Donald sank the vital eight-foot putt to clinch the lead and said: "I knew the importance of making 59, so it was a big putt. I was very glad it went in."

5 FOR FUN

- 1 Which south coast Football League club have been given planning permission for a new stadium at Falmer?
- 2 Which jockey was nicknamed "The Long Fellow"?
- 3 Which Swedish club, twice winners of the

UEFA Cup, are nicknamed The Blue and White Angels?

4 The motto of which famous rugby union club is "Rugby football is a game for gentlemen of all classes, but never for a bad sportsman of any class"?

5 Former world heavyweight champion Joe Frazier had only one contest in Great Britain. Who was his opponent?

ANSWERS: See Page 77

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SERIOUSLY
football

Blatter's warning after war of the World Cup



Mum's all Dwight

DWIGHT YORKE only had one thing on his mind when he got off the pitch after Trinidad and Tobago's amazing World Cup qualification win against Bahrain – he turned on his phone and called his mum.

Former Manchester United and Aston Villa hitman Yorke, 34, sent in the corner for Dennis Lawrence's winner which put his team through to the World Cup for the first time in their history.

His mum was watching on TV back home on the tiny Caribbean island and Yorke said: "The first thing I did was call my mum because she is so important to me. They were celebrating like crazy back in Tobago."

Yorke had quit international football but he came back to help Trinidad's faltering qualifying campaign in February and believes new

by SCOTT COLEMAN

Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker can spring some more surprises yet.

Yorke said: "Beenhakker came in and gave us the belief to go out and do it as a team – it took a special mix of Trinidad spirit and Dutch tactics to get us through."

"Most of all we have to thank God for what he has done for such a small country as ours. It is an incredible feeling."

Yorke revealed that the prospect of a trip to the World Cup was as exciting as winning the European Cup with Manchester United.

"We are a tiny country and to have inspired young people in Trinidad, and in the Caribbean as a whole, is a fantastic feeling."



SHAME GAME: Alpay kicks out at Swiss player Marco Streller at the end

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BAD BOYS FACE BOOT

TURKEY and Switzerland could be banned from world football after their shameful battle of Istanbul.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter yesterday warned both countries they could face suspension following the violent scenes that marred their World Cup qualifying play-off in the Turkish city.

Turkey won 4-2 on the night but went out on the away goals rule after losing the first leg 2-0, and all hell broke loose as the players left the pitch.

Tough

At a press conference in Zurich, Blatter described the incidents as "trampling fair play underfoot" and announced world football's governing body would come down hard on the perpetrators.

"If you ask me what the sanctions can be, they can go from a warning to the suspension of the federation," he said. "I

by JAMES DOBSON

can tell you this, not as a Swiss but as the president of FIFA, that we will act here and we will act tough.

"This was anti-fair play," however, Blatter – who is himself Swiss – angered Turkish Football Federation vice-president Sekip Mosturoglu by adding: "The Turks had the chance after the (first leg) defeat to act as a good host and show that revenge is not part of football."

Mosturoglu responded: "It is an extremely unfortunate statement. This was not a one-sided event."

Blatter later added: "To say that I am a happy man today would not be true."

"I am disappointed about the incidents that have happened in Istanbul, especially the lack of respect shown by the Turkish football federation towards the visiting team since Monday when they arrived there and also what happened during the match, the hostility of the spectators and incidents at the end of the match."

"Therefore the FIFA disciplinary committee will open an investigation to go in depth into this matter."

Stunned

Sheffield United manager Neil Warnock was caught up in the violent scenes. He had travelled to the Turkish capital to run the rule over two potential transfer targets but was left stunned as mayhem broke out.

Warnock said: "I've never seen an atmosphere like it in my whole life."

Fix ref is jailed

A REFEREE who admitted fixing matches has been jailed for two years and five months for his part in a scandal that has shamed German football.

Robert Hoyzer, 26, and another ref, Dominik Marks, 30, were found guilty of having rigged games in return for payment from Ante Sapina, the Croatian ringleader of a two million euros betting fraud.

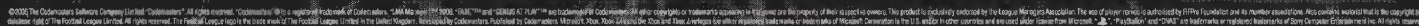
In the biggest match-fixing scandal to hit Germany in more than 30 years, Marks received a suspended sentence of 18 months.

Prosecutors had asked for a two-year suspended sentence for Hoyzer who admitted his guilt in court.

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IT'S A DANNY OLD GAME

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Fullbrook every Friday

SOCCER LINES



This taunt could be back to haunt Jose

IT was meant to be provocative, a tease – a playful jibe.

But it could be a taunt which may come back to haunt Jose Mourinho. A master of mind games, the Chelsea boss has already proved he loves the theatre of football.

So perhaps he will appreciate the irony of his own words, spoken before Chelsea lost to Manchester United.

It was then, having seen Sir Alex Ferguson's side lose to Middlesbrough and then Lille, that Mourinho suggested if he lost three games in a row he would expect to be under pressure.

And guess what? He now is. Losing to Real Betis was a severe shock, which was only compounded by defeat at United.

Click

Losing at Old Trafford is nothing to be ashamed of.

But when you set high standards, as Mourinho does, then they have to be maintained.

Perhaps Mourinho now knows how Claudio Ranieri felt with big brother Roman Abramovich looking over his shoulder.

Sending in his side-kicks to Chelsea's Cobham training ground to find out what is going wrong was hardly a subtle move by Abramovich.

But then again, when you have ploughed £400m into a club in three years, and answered your manager's every whim, you can do what you like.

Mourinho hates to talk about the money he has had to spend but that is what it will always come back to.

It is why Abramovich expects to have success at the click of his fingers – and why he does not want to see his side struggling to qualify from the group stage of the Champions League.

Abramovich may not be vocal in public but it is a well-known fact that he was cut up last season as he saw his side crash out of the Champions League in the semi-finals.

It was watching Real Madrid play Manchester United in the same competition which was apparently the

catalyst for him getting involved at Stamford Bridge.

Winning the Premiership is part of his agenda but European domination is the real jewel in the Russian's crown.

Considering the amount of time he spends flying over Europe and sailing around it, that should be no surprise.

So imagine how he feels now knowing that Chelsea could be faced with a situation where they have to win both of their last two games to qualify.

If Real Betis win at Anfield next week then that is what Chelsea will have to do – first at Anderlecht next Wednesday and then at home to Liverpool – to guarantee their passage into the knockout stages.

And considering Chelsea have lost five and drawn one of their last six away games in the Champions League, the game in Belgium should not be taken lightly.

Nobody is suggesting Mourinho is going to get the bullet but while he is trying to turn the screw on others, he should perhaps remember the scrutiny he is under.

He and his players may feel that retaining the Premiership title is the most important thing this season – and they are right.

Back-to-back championships are the sign of a very special team.

But Abramovich wants a new toy to play with and at the moment what he desires most is on permanent display in the Anfield trophy room after they won it for a fifth time last season.

Confidence

Playing Newcastle is not exactly the easiest task this weekend either.

Scott Parker will be desperate to prove what Chelsea are missing, while Michael Owen's confidence will be sky-high.

Mind you, so will Didier Drogba's after his fantastic goal for the Ivory Coast against Italy on Wednesday. Shame he is suspended tomorrow.

Does it sound like the great man has problems? Maybe. But as a betting man, I would back him to find the right solution.

It should be fun to watch.



ABRAMOVICH: Expects success



WARNOCK: Top entertainer

IS Danny right about Jose Mourinho? Text DSDANNY followed by a space then your views to 67411. Texts cost 25p plus normal operator rate. Or send him an e-mail to danny.fullbrook@dailystar.com

WAR GAMES

THIS may upset one close friend, but I can't wait to see Neil Warnock take Sheffield United into the Premiership.

The straight-talking Yorkshireman is pure entertainment and football needs as much as it can get.

Fans may think Mourinho ruffles feathers. Just wait until Warnock starts playing mind games. Apart from

that though, after serving his time at United he now has a team which deserves to be in the top flight. And it is all credit to Warnock.

Anybody who packs his players off to the Lake District for some paint-balling and sailing after the squad trip to Malta was cancelled because the hotel was being renovated has some style.

RISING Sheffield United star Nicky Law has agreed a new two-year contract with the Championship leaders. Midfielder Law, 17, only made his debut last month against Reading but the son of the former Bradford manager of the same name is rated highly by Blades boss Neil Warnock.

WIGAN right-back David Wright is hoping to kick-start his career after agreeing to join Championship strugglers Norwich on a one-month loan.

RONNIE JEPSON, Gillingham's stand-in boss following Neale Cooper's resignation earlier this week, is to get the job on a permanent basis.

NEXT month's Championship derby clash between Sheffield United and Sheffield Wednesday at Bramall Lane is a 30,000 sell out.

LEEDS boss Kevin Blackwell wants to sign Tottenham misfit Andy Reid on a short-term deal in a bid to solve his midfield crisis at Elland Road.

FORMER Northern Ireland manager Sammy McIlroy has taken over as caretaker manager of Conference side Morecambe after current boss Jim Harvey suffered a heart attack.

PETER TAYLOR will be handed a £750,000 cash boost in a bid to save Hull from instant relegation back to League One.

Tigers chairman Adam Pearson is prepared to splash out on new signings after watching Taylor's men slide to within two points of the relegation zone.

LEEDS Iceland international Gylfi Sigurdsson will be out for up to a month after dislocating his left shoulder during a reserve game against Birmingham.

DEAN STURRIDGE is facing another month on the sidelines after injuring his hamstring. The former Wolves striker – who has started just six games since joining QPR in March – broke down in training this week.

CRYSTAL PALACE striker Andy Johnson is unlikely to be back in action before the clash with Luton on November 26.

CHELSEA have been snubbed by Argentina midfielder Fernando Gago after the teenager said he would prefer to play in Spain. The Boca Juniors star is wanted by Chelsea after helping Argentina win the World Youth Cup earlier this year.

Sheffield United midfielder Lillian Nalis has returned to Bramall Lane after a one-month loan spell at Coventry.

SERIOUSLY football

City boss Pearce is backing Barton

SITTING IT OUT: Joey Barton will miss City's clash with Blackburn as he serves a one-match ban



STUART PEARCE reluctantly admits Joey Barton's one-match suspension could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

Barton will sit out tomorrow's clash with Blackburn after a traumatic week when the player's brother Michael Barton and cousin Paul Taylor went on trial accused of the murder of Liverpool teenager Anthony Walker.

And while City boss Pearce insists he never likes to see one of his players banned, he believes that the timing of Barton's absence will do the player no harm.

Pearce said: "Personally I don't think it's ever good that he is suspended from this football club but I know, having spoken with

■ by **GEORGE SCOTT**

him, that mentally it's a big week for him. "For any young man who was going through the same thing, let alone in the public eye, it would be a very big week."

Barton has been praised for the way he responded after almost being sacked in the summer for a hotel brawl on the club's pre-season tour to Thailand.

Maturity

And Pearce added: "Let's hope he can stand up to it. He knows full well he has the backing of the football club and hopefully he keeps maturing and shows the level of maturity he has done over the last couple of months, then I think it'll stand him in good stead."

Barton also earned praise for refusing to use his brother's court case to pull out of speaking at a City supporters' forum on Tuesday night.

And he played his part in Pearce's Peak District pranks the previous week, designed

to build team spirit and prevent his players from becoming too 'big-time'.

Barton was part of the City squad that went abseiling, climbing and orienteering in the Peak District last week.

Pearce said: "We did a bit of abseiling and a bit of orienteering which meant the boys had to come and find me in the forest which obviously they didn't want to do."

"I'm blessed here with a group of players who quite like that kind of thing and most of them throw themselves into it."

"It wasn't really Nicolas Anelka's cup of tea but I've been a great believer that you do it for the majority and not the minority. If the majority come to me and say it's not for us any more then we won't do it, it's a simple as that."

"I think once you start treating them like a bunch of tarts then you can't be surprised when they started acting in that way."

Information Station

CRICKET

SECOND TEST MATCH (Hobart) – West Indies v Australia: West Indies 149 (C H Gayle 56, G D McGrath 4-31) v Australia 60-0 (18.0 overs).

TOUR MATCH (Meerut) – India Under 21 Women v England Women: India Under 21 Women 147-7 v England Women 149-0 (C M Edwards 91no, L K Newton 51no). England Women beat India Under 21 Women by 10 wickets.

GOLF

WGC ALGARVE WORLD CUP (Victoria Club, de Gole, Vilamoura, Portugal) – Fourballs (par 72): 59 England (D Howell, L Donald), 60 India (A Atwal, J Randhawa), Australia (M Hensby, P Lonard), 61 Wales (S Dodd, B Dredge), Sweden (H Stenson, N Fasth), 62 Spain (MA Jimenez, S Garcia), Taiwan (W' Chang, C Tse-peng), 63 Paraguay (M Ruiz, C Franco), France (R Jacquelin, T Lovet), Japan (T Taniguchi, Y Imano), Netherlands (R J Derksen, M Leliefeld), 64 Denmark (A Hansen, S Hansen).

SNOOKER

CHINA OPEN QUALIFYING (Ponlin's, Pieshtyn) – 3rd qualifying round: A Norman (Eng) bt T Drago (Mli) 5-3, D Henry (Sco) bt S Bedford (Eng) 5-0, J Cope (Eng) bt D Dale (Wal) 5-3, D Roe (Eng) bt M Davis (Eng) 5-3, S MacKenzie (Sco) bt G Greene (Nir) 5-2, J Swail (Nir) bt D Gilbert (Eng) 5-4, J Michie (Eng) bt F O'Brien (Irl) 5-4, D Harold (Eng) bt T Ford (Eng) 5-3, R Day (Wal) bt J Burnett (Sco) 5-0, S Bingham (Eng) bt R McLeod (Eng) 5-2, J Trump (Eng) bt M Judge (Irl) 5-4, S Pettman (Eng) bt L Fernandez (Irl) 5-1, J Wattana (Tha) bt H Abernethy (Sco) 5-4, A Gurnell (Eng) bt L W Bo (Chn) 5-3.

TENNIS

ATP TENNIS MASTERS CUP (Shanghai, China) – Group A: D Nalbandian (Arg) bt I Ljubicic (Cro) 6-2, R Federer (Swi) bt G Coria (Arg) 6-0 1-6 6-3.

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

Coca-Cola Championship Derby v Wolverhampton.....
Coca-Cola League One.....

Swansea v Yeovil.....

Coca-Cola League Two.....

Cheltenham v Lincoln City.....

Nationwide Conference: Accrington Stanley v Forest Green.

The Welsh Premier: Aberystwyth v Caerswys (7.30), Caernarfon v Porthmadog (7.30), New Glyn Orade v Bangor City (7.30), Port Talbot v Grange Quins (7.30), Rhyl v T.N.S. (7.30).

BASKETBALL

BBL: Chester Jets v Guildford Heat, Milton Keynes Lions v Newcastle Eagles.

CRICKET

Second Test Match – day 2 of 5: Australia v West Indies (Hobart).

GOLF

WGC - Algarve World Cup (Victoria Club de Golf, Algarve, Portugal).

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League: Sheffield Steelers v London Racers.

MOTOR RACING

World Touring Car Championship rd 10 (Macau, China).

At Grand Prix of Nations rd 5 (Sepang International Circuit, Malaysia).

RUGBY LEAGUE

International Match (6.30): France v New Zealand.

RUGBY UNION

Guinness Premiership (8pm): Sale v Leicester, Worcester v Bristol.

TENNIS

ATP Tennis Masters Cup (Shanghai, China).

SPORTWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1 Hamilton, 7 Lords, 8 Rocca, 9 Bolton, 10 Brad, 12 Rice, 14 Macdonald, 17 Ossie, 18 Inger, 19 Harmsen.

DOWN: 1 Herol, 2 Moscow, 3 Lara, 4 Oscar, 5 Kleber, 6 Wanderers, 11 Robins, 13 Costa, 15 Regan, 16 Bear.

FIVE FOR FUN ANSWERS

1 Brighton, 2 Lester Piggott, 3 IFK Gothenburg (or Gothenberg), 4 Barbarians, 5 Joe Bugner.

Curbs on hold

ALAN CURBISHLEY has left the door open for Rangers by stalling contract talks with Charlton.

The Valley manager is the Glasgow giant's No.1 choice to replace Alex McLeish, who is facing at the sack.

Save

Tomorrow's Old Firm derby at Celtic is a must-win match for McLeish, who has been given two weeks to save his job by chairman David Murray.

■ by **ALISTAIR GRANT**

The Ibrox supremo will be delighted to hear that Curbishley, whose contract has just 18 months to run, has postponed extension talks until next year.

"I spoke to my chairman Richard Murray a month ago," said Curbishley.

"But we didn't really get round to talking."

"I just said I would rather leave it until after Christmas and get the first half of the season out of

the way. At the moment, I'm happy here.

"People are talking about Rangers and what's going on is disrespectful to Alex McLeish."

Curbishley, whose faltering team face Manchester United tomorrow, has an agreement with Murray that he is allowed to talk to a big club if they call.

"The chairman's theory is that it's a different situation if it's an immeasurably bigger club," added Curbishley.



CURBISHLEY: In no rush

Becks in Real agony

DAVID BECKHAM'S persistent back injury has flared up again ahead of Real Madrid's huge clash with Barcelona tomorrow.

The England captain is expected to start in the all-important Spanish six-pointer but may need pain-killing injections after a worrying back complaint flared up again in training.

Becks, 30, pulled out of a practice game after just 25 minutes yesterday and received intensive treatment from worried Real Madrid medical staff.

■ by **PETE JENSON**

Doctor Juan Carlos Hernandez said: "He had an uncomfortable night the day before the session and felt a bit of strain in his back."

"He then aggravated it in a sudden movement in training and rather than risk further damage he decided to pull out of the session."

Rich deal a write off

■ by **DAVE ARMITAGE**

WEST Brom have finally given up hope of luring Kieran Richardson to The Hawthorns.

Manchester United's £4m-rated midfielder established himself as a Premiership player under Bryan Robson while on loan last season.

But the Baggies boss said: "In a way the success he had with us has cost us."

"I think that Sir Alex would give me first option if the situation changed but basically I have written it off."

Jean: We know the dangers

JEAN-ALAIN BOUMSONG has warned his Newcastle team-mates to expect a Chelsea backlash tomorrow.

The Toon central defender, who will return in place of Steven Taylor at Stamford Bridge, said: "We go there knowing we are facing the best team in the Premier League."

"Chelsea have lost their last two games and they will want to win in front of their public and to stop all the criticism which has come from the last few games."

"It is not going to be an easy game and we are aware of the dangers, but we are confident and together."

Boumson's defensive pal Celestine Babayaro, meanwhile, returns to his old club convinced Jose Mourinho's men are still bang on course to retain the Premiership crown.

Slump

Despite Chelsea's defeats to Real Betis and Manchester United, the Nigerian has warned Newcastle there will be no crisis of confidence in the Blues camp.

Club owner Roman Abramovich might be fretting over Chelsea's recent slump, but according to Babayaro none of his ex-colleagues will have lost too much sleep since the 1-0 defeat at United a fortnight ago.

"After the start to the season they've had, I don't think there's any additional pressure on Chelsea," said the full-back, who joined the Toon earlier this year.

"Having said that, a game against Newcastle is always a pressure one for anybody."

"But Jose Mourinho is a great manager and good for the game and the current squad is unbelievable in terms of quality."

"I suppose that's one of the reasons I left."

Newcastle are looking for their fifth successive win and with England hero Michael Owen banging in

by IAN MURTAGH

the goals, a shock could be on the cards.

However, the Geordies' recent record at Chelsea is woeful.

They have leaked 12 goals in their last three league games there, picked up just four Premiership points out of a possible 36 and last won at Stamford Bridge in 1986.

On becoming Graeme Souness' first Toon signing 10 months ago, Babayaro claimed he was joining a bigger club.

But he insists there are no hard feelings about his Chelsea exit.

"The manager made it clear that he wanted me to stay," he revealed.

Happy

"I could have done that and picked up a few winners' medals but I would have been on the bench for a lot of the games and I wanted to be playing every week."

"The approach from Newcastle was a great opportunity to play for a fantastic club and I am grateful to Jose and Peter Kenyon for not standing in my way."

"I am going back in a happy frame of mind and I just hope the crowd will appreciate all that I did for Chelsea."

SERIOUSLY football

Cult hero Chimbonda is Gunner

WE'RE REAL



Thierry is 'Arsene's only hope'

by MARK OGDEN

THIERRY HENRY has been billed as Arsenal's only hope of catching Chelsea in the Premiership this season.

Henry, 28, has now beaten his early season injury problems and is set to face high-flying Wigan at the JJB Stadium tomorrow lunchtime.

And Wigan defender Stephane Henchoz claims that Arsenal's slim title hopes now rest solely on the France striker's shoulders.

Arsene Wenger's men lie 11 points adrift of Chelsea with a game in hand and former Liverpool star Henchoz admits that Henry is the one man capable of propelling the Gunners back into the title race.

Henchoz said: "Arsenal can still challenge for the title, even though Chelsea are probably one level higher than them."

"But Thierry Henry is the one player that Arsenal need to have fit and available if they are to close the gap."

"They are not the same team when Henry isn't playing and, when he has missed games this season, they have not got the results that they wanted. But when



HENCHOZ: Big fan of Henry

he is fit, Henry is a big part of their team and Arsenal become very difficult to beat.

"He is the best striker in the Premiership, if not the best in the world, and you know you will have your most difficult afternoon of the season when you play against him. He has everything."

"Losing Patrick Vieira has been a big loss for Arsenal, but they are still a top-three side, especially when Henry is playing."

Henchoz, who is ready to launch his bid to sneak into Switzerland's World Cup squad after six months in the international wilderness, has helped Wigan claim the best defensive record in the Premiership so far this term.

But he admits that their mean streak will be tested to the limit in their next five games - against Arsenal, Spurs, Liverpool, Manchester United and Chelsea.

Henchoz said: "The next five games will be very tough and anything we can pick up will be a bonus."

"There is no pressure on us against the big teams but we still want to win every game we play. "It's great to be playing Arsenal in second spot and even the players at Wigan are surprised at the start we have made."

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try and extend Wigan's red-hot start to the season

TIGHTS UNIT AND PASCAL'S WEARING 'EM

Says Wigan hitman JASON ROBERTS

PASCAL CHIMBONDA won't be caught cold when Wigan play host to Arsenal tomorrow.

Chimbonda hasn't taken his gloves off since he arrived in Lancashire in the summer.

Now the Guadeloupe-born Frenchman is planning to play against the Gunners in a pair of tighties!

Wigan striker Jason Roberts said: "He wears his gloves everywhere, which makes us laugh. He only takes them off to go in the shower."

"He reckons he's wearing tighties for the Arsenal game and I've been trying to give him a stick about that but he really doesn't seem bothered, he just shrugs it off."

Impact

Chimbonda, 26, has been one of the stars of Wigan's high-flying start to their debut season in the Premiership.

He's become a cult hero at the club with his high-energy performances at full-back and the fact that his gloves are on, even when it's not cold.

Roberts said: "He has been one of the finds of the season."

"We didn't know much about him before the season started but he has impressed everybody, not just with his performances on the pitch but with the way he has fitted in off the

by MATT BARLOW

pitch. He made a big impact on the dressing-room as soon as he came, just with his personality. He was one of the boys within 48 hours – and that's without speaking the language."

Chimbonda, signed from French League side Bastia, typifies Paul Jewell's work at the JJB Stadium.

The manager has assembled a team of has-beens, cast-offs and unknown foreigners and forged them into a tight unit.

Players like Grenada international Roberts – now at his eighth club – and West Ham reject Jimmy Bullard are combining brilliantly with talented youngsters like Leighton Baines.

Veterans like *Stephane Henchoz* and *Arjan de Zeeuw* look ready to play for 10 more years and even £3m problem-child *Henri Camara* is doing what he is told.

As a result, the Latics are second, six points behind Chelsea and with a game in hand.

"They haven't lost for nearly three months and have won their last eight games."

Everyone is waiting for the bubble to burst but Roberts insists that won't happen because Wigan are in second spot on merit. "A lot of people

have put our success down to our work-rate but it's a bit simple to say that's the only reason we're doing well," said the 27-year-old.

"You don't go nine games unbeaten just with a good work-rate. You've got to have a little bit of quality too."

"It's not a problem if people under-play the quality we have in the side. We're happy to be known as the team that works hard but I think we've got a lot more to us than that."

"We have nothing to fear because we're where we are in the league because we've beaten some good sides. We'll go into the matches positively and see what happens."

Arsenal will provide a true test of Wigan's potential.

Jewell's boys haven't played one of the Premiership's big guns since the opening day of the season, when they lost in the last minute to Chelsea.

Honest

And Roberts said: "It'll be our first sell-out crowd of the season and you're in football for this sort of occasion."

"I was a Spurs fan when I was younger but to be honest that wouldn't make beating Arsenal any sweeter. It's just another game against a great side."

"This is the start of a run of really hard league games against some top-class opposition."

"After Arsenal we face Spurs, Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester United and these matches will be a measure of how far we've come."

"Despite being second I can honestly say that no-one at Wigan is thinking or talking about Europe."

"Avoiding relegation is our No.1 priority. Our first target is 40 points and if and when we hit that mark we'll have a conversation about where we go from there."

A GLOVE AFFAIR: Hero Pascal Chimbonda celebrates his goal against Fulham with Henri Camara



Don't Eu blow it United

From Back Page
momentum of their thrilling win over Chelsea. Ferguson knows United must exploit any dip in Charlton's confidence – they have won only once at home this season.

He said: "Beating Chelsea was a fantastic result for us and the important issue now is beating Charlton."

"There is no question that is what we have to do. We have to follow the Chelsea win up and not lose the impetus."

"It is going to be difficult to win the league unless we put together a string of victories."

"If we do that, we have a chance. We can beat anybody."

"We proved that against Chelsea and I have no doubts about this side."

Shock

A huge boost for United is that Ruud van Nistelrooy should be fit after suffering a rib injury training with Holland.

● Gary Neville is in line for a shock return at Charlton tomorrow after emerging unscathed from a 65-minute appearance for United reserves last night.

Defender Neville, 30, has been sidelined for three months after picking up a groin injury in the Champions League qualifier against Debrecen in Hungary last August.

He handed boss Sir Alex Ferguson a timely boost with a solid display in the 4-1 win over West Brom at Hyde and could now make the bench for the trip to The Valley.

There was still no sign of crooked Roy Keane, though, with the United skipper still two weeks from fitness after breaking his foot against Liverpool in September.

Neville has been sorely missed by Fergie who will be tempted to include the England star among his subs at Charlton with an eye on a full return against Villarreal on Tuesday.

Barn's storm

by DANNY FULLBROOK

MANAGERS' chief John Barnwell has urged Premiership clubs to look after their bosses as much as their players.

He wants clubs to pay for a regular health check for their under pressure managers.

Out of 74 bosses who have undertaken the League Managers Association health screen, 47 of them have been diagnosed with a heart condition.

LMA chief executive Barnwell said: "At the moment the Premier League themselves are funding the health programme for bosses."

"But I feel it should be mandatory for the clubs to pay for the service because they should be caring for the health of their managers as well as their players."

Gael's warning

Gael Clichy could be out for four months with a stress fracture of his right foot.

The injury is identical to the one suffered by Ashley Cole – the man Clichy has been replacing at left-back for Arsenal since mid-October.

Earlier this season the Gunners thought Clichy would be missing for six weeks but boss Arsene Wenger, who said Cole would be sidelined for another five weeks, confirmed his fellow Frenchman would need surgery.

"The injury is in the same place where he had a screw put in before," said Wenger. "It is terrible for the boy. We feel really bad for him. For us it is hard to take as well because we have no left-backs who are really comfortable in that position."

PREMIERSHIP TOP EIGHT

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	12	10	1	1	28	7	31
Wigan	11	8	1	2	13	5	25
Bolton	12	7	2	3	14	11	23
Man Utd	11	6	3	2	16	11	21
Arsenal	11	6	2	3	16	8	20
Spurs	12	5	5	2	13	8	20
Man City	12	6	2	4	15	11	20
Charlton	11	6	1	4	16	14	19

WIGAN'S NEXT SIX GAMES

19 Nov: Arsenal	(h) Premiership
26 Nov: Spurs	(h) Premiership
29 Nov: Newcastle	(h) Carling Cup
3 Dec: Liverpool	(a) Premiership
10 Dec: Chelsea	(a) Premiership
14 Dec: Man Utd	(a) Premiership

Ron wrecks Lamps' bid

FRANK LAMPARD has been pipped to the European Footballer of the Year title by Ronaldinho.

The Chelsea midfielder – who has inspired the Blues to the Premiership title and helped England reach the World Cup finals – had been among the favourites for the coveted prize.

But reports in Barcelona suggest the Brazilian ace has finished ahead of him in the European poll, organised by France Football magazine.

Lampard was voted England's Footballer of the Year and players' player of the year at the end of last season.

Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard is set to finish third after votes

by STEVE GOODMAN

cast by sports journalists across the continent.

France Football is due to announce the official result at the end of the month.

But newspapers in Barcelona have revealed reporters and photographers were in the Catalan capital on Wednesday to interview Ronaldinho and picture him with the Ballon d'Or (Golden Ball) trophy.

The 25-year-old inspired Barca to the La Liga title in May.

Lampard and Gerrard headed a list of 16 Premiership stars on the 50-strong award shortlist.



LAMPARD: Runner-up



**DON'T
COCK
IT UP
FERGIE**

Euro failure would cost United £15m

SIR ALEX FERGUSON and his Manchester United stars were last night warned that failure in Europe is unthinkable.

United chief executive David Gill fears that failure to qualify for the knockout stages of the Champions League could cost the club at least £15m.

United travel to Charlton for a vital Premiership game tomorrow, but Gill has shown where his priorities lie by speaking of his Euro fears.

If Fergie's men lose at home to Villarreal on Tuesday and Lille beat Benfica on the same night, United will crash out of the competition – the first time they have failed to qualify from their group for a decade.

That will lead to massive loss in revenue

by GEORGE SCOTT

and prestige as well as causing serious rumbles of concern across the Atlantic where the Glazer family are looking for progress in Europe to recoup some of the cash from their controversial £790m takeover.

"It would cost us money," said Gill. "We fully understand we have to be successful on the pitch to be successful off it. Tuesday will be a pre-surfed game."

Fail

"But we have done well in the Champions League in the past. We have always got through the group stage and we do not want to fail this time."

But Fergie is reluctant to look beyond the trip to Charlton where he is demanding that his players maintain the



GILL: Fears of Euro KO

Turn to Page 79

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YOU MUST NOT LOSE:
Fergie's men cannot afford a Euro defeat

Published by Express Newspapers, The Northern & Shell Building, Monitor 10, Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN. 0800 454 1010. (Outside UK: +44(0) 870 062 850). Printed by West Fries Press Ltd, 255 Westbury Road, London, E14 3NR. Distribution: Express Newspapers, 15, Upper Thames Street, London, EC3R 6EN. Tel: 020 7556 6000. Fax: 020 7556 6001. Email: sales@screwfix.com. Website: www.screwfix.com. © 2005 Screwfix Direct. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without permission in writing from the publishers.



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DAILY STAR 18 NOV 2005, No 8557

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